

REMARKS

By the present paper, no claims are cancelled and no claims are amended. Claims 11 - 16, 19, 22 - 35, and 37 are in the Application.

The Office alleges that the Application contains claims drawn to two patentably distinct inventions:

I., a self adhesive sheet, claims 11, 16 - 19, 22 - 26, 30 - 33, 35, and 37

II., method of bonding, claims 27, 29 and 34

For reasons given below, Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants reserve the right to petition for relief if the requirement is made final and reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications for any non-elected, restricted subject matter, whether or not a petition is filed.

Applicants Traversal:

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has inadvertently overlook the fact that the present Application is a national stage filing of a PCT application and, accordingly, mistakenly applies the independent and distinct standards of M.P.E.P. Chapter 800 instead of the unity of invention standards of M.P.E.P. Chapter 1800.

In Chapter 800 parlance, the claims of Groups I and II are indeed related as product and process of use. But the process requires and is limited to use of

Applicants' inventive product. The claims of Groups I and II share a common special *and* inventive technical feature, making a contribution over the prior art. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicants further traverse the Office's determination that surface area covered by the adhesive (B1) and the kind of adhesive somehow relate to different species. Any adhesive can be applied at any surface area. Bonding strength should be view as a matrix variable, depending on both amount (area) and type of adhesive.

Applicants Provisional Election:

In order that their reply be deemed fully responsive and without prejudice to their traversal, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the claims of Group I and the species A1 of claim 11 and claims depending therefrom, wherein the bonding strength is a function of relative surface areas, B1, covered by adhesive as set forth in claim 33.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for an extension of time to reply of TWO MONTHS the fee of \$245.00 required therefor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) is paid herewith by credit card. Form PTO-2038 accompanies

this paper. If Form PTO-2038 is missing, cannot be processed, or authorizes insufficient payment, the Director is hereby authorized to debit Deposit Account 10-1250 for any shortfall in fees due herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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